

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Serial Number: 10/767556

Filing Date: January 29, 2004

Title: SMALL GAUGE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH SUPPORT DEVICE

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Docket No: 1775.001US1

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following paragraph, on page 1, line 4, before the heading "Technical Field":

**Cross-Reference to Related Application(s)**

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial Number 60/443,375, filed January 29, 2003, under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), which is incorporated herein by reference.

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**Conclusion**

The Applicant respectfully requests that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to the examination and consideration of the above-identified application. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

EDWIN RYAN

By his Representatives,

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P.O. Box 2938  
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(612) 373-6944

Date 5-11-04

By

  
David C. Peterson  
Reg. No. 47,857

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, MS: Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 12 day of May 2004.

Name Paula Suchy

Signature Paula Suchy